

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 19, and 29 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview Requested

Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner in order to discuss the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to schedule such an interview and obtain an agenda for the same, before issuing a further Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-18 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmavaara et al. (US 7,359,347) in view of Lin et al. (US 2004/0240430). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 3 of the non-final Office Action dated December 15, 2009 the Examiner admits that Ahmavaara does not disclose "the message relay request including a network controller identifier identifying a second network controller capable of receiving a signal from the mobile station" as previously recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner relies on Lin to teach this limitation, and contends that one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings of Ahmavaara and Lin.

Without conceding to the Examiner's position, Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the cited art. Amended Claim 1 recites, inter alia, "the message relay request including a network controller identifier identifying a second network

controller operating according to a second radio technology." At least this feature is not disclosed or rendered obvious by any combination of the cited art.

Lin teaches base stations capable of supporting roaming wireless telephones. Specifically, Lin teaches base stations that support wireless telephones that are within a geographic cell. More so, each base station may support a handoff when a wireless telephone moves into a different geographic cell. In Lin, each base station is connected to a gateway to route inbound and outbound calls. In Lin, while a call is in progress and a wireless telephones moves to a different cell, the telephones may detect adequate signal strength levels to communicate with a new base station. If detected, the wireless telephone will make a handover request to the new base station. Then, the new base station sends the handover request to its gateway. The gateway then determines whether the call is a public switched telephone network call (PSTN) or a VoIP call.

However, the handoff in Lin is maintained on the same radio technology. Therefore, Lin does not disclose "the message relay request including a network controller identifier identifying a second network controller operating according to a second radio technology" as recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited art teaches or renders obvious all of the elements of independent claim 1 and independent claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, Applicants submit that independent claim 11 is allowable for at least somewhat similar reasons as independent claim 1 and on its own merits. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2-10, 12-18 and 41 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable base claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this art grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 19-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guilford et al. (US 2002/0087674) in view of Vazvan et al. (US 6,400,946). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 4 of the non-final Office Action dated December 15, 2009 the Examiner uses Guilford to teach “receiving a selection of at least one selected wireless element from the wireless unit” as recited in independent claim 19. The Examiner relies only on Guilford to teach this limitation.

Guilford discloses a method for selecting a wireless network from a plurality of networks. In Guilford, a mobile terminal sends a service request to a service provider. The service provider then determines whether the service request can be made through an existing portfolio of service platforms. If one of the service platforms can service the request, then the current service provider instructs the wireless device to connect to the new platform. Thus, in Guilford the mobile terminal requests a mobile service without knowing if it is available.

Therefore, in Guilford the service provider determines whether a mobile terminal can connect to a new servicer platform. In contrast, amended claim 19 requires “receiving a selection of at least one selected wireless element from the wireless unit.”

In view of the above, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited art teaches or renders obvious all of the elements of independent claim 19 and independent claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, Applicants submit that independent claim 29 is allowable for at least somewhat similar reasons as independent claim 19 and on its own merits.

Applicants further submit that dependent claims 20-28 and 30-40 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable base claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this art grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-41 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

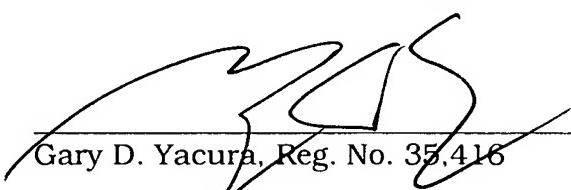
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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